

Chippewa Valley CWD Advisory Team meeting

June 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes



**County: Representation from Eau Claire,
Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Buffalo and
Trempealeau**

ORDER OF BUSINESS	June 18, 2018	7:00 PM	River Prairie Center, Altoona WI
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Chairman – Dave Zielke at 7:00 PM.
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Chair, Dave Zielke, Eau Claire Co; Alternate Chair, Al Brown, Chippewa Co.; Bill Perrotti, Eau Claire Co.; Mark Noll, Buffalo Co.; Bob Thoma, Trempealeau Co.; Rick Wayne, Pepin Co.; Al Marotz, Dunn Co.
EXCUSED	
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	DNR Staff Present: Kris Johansen, Harvey Halvorsen, Bill Hogseth, Mark Rasmussen, Lindsey Long, Paul Napierala, Chad Mogen, Ryan Haffele, and others. Brian Richards from National Wildlife Health Center.

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Motion by Al Brown, Chippewa Co., Second by Mark Noll, Buffalo Co., to approve agenda as presented. Motion carried.

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Chairman Zielke reviewed the Advisory team objectives..

E. MEETING MINUTE REVIEW AND APPROVAL

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Al Brown read the minutes of the May 22, 2018 CWD Advisory team meeting. Motion by Mark Noll, second by Bill Perrotti to accept as read. Motion carried.

F. REVIEW OF MEETING AND DISCUSSION ETIQUETTE

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	Chairman Zielke reviewed meeting and discussion etiquette with the team.

2. INFORMATION

DISCUSSION

A. Review preliminary surveillance recommendations – Bill Hogseth, DNR. Bill Hogseth, revisited the history pertaining to a wild deer (doe) discovered to be CWD positive in the town of Brunswick, Eau Claire County in March, 2018.

Results of the positive deer gave light to the formation of the Chippewa Valley CWD Advisory Team. The team was formed so they could come up with a response to the discovery of the CWD positive deer and assist the DNR with recommendations.

On May 22, 2018 the Advisory team met and made preliminary recommendations. The team discussed the boundary of the surveillance area (506 square miles), issuance of surveillance permits and the focus area for permits.

The sampling goal is to test 310 deer within the surveillance area. This is a first year goal that will provide a 95% confidence level of detecting the disease.

The goal of the focus area (27.5 square miles) is to test 70 deer with a 50% confidence level of detecting the disease.

If sampling goals cannot be met other options are mandatory deer registration stations and mandatory CWD testing. If more CWD positives are detected, the DNR might have to recommend additional hunting days and increase harvest, possible financial incentives, culling, or trapping.

B. CWD History, Surveillance and Management, Bryan Richards, National Wildlife Health Center. Brian Richards was present to discuss CWD and answer questions that the Advisory team may have.

First off, Richards commented on minutes read from last meeting. A comment from the public at last meeting claimed that a study on Macaques (monkeys) in Canada has been debunked. He said that comment is false, the study has not been debunked but different results have been found.

Asked if meat from CWD positive deer should be consumed for human consumption. He said he would not eat the meat if his deer tested positive, however his decision is personal and shouldn't influence anyone else.

Discussed basics of CWD.

- What the disease actually is – characteristics of the disease.
- CWD is contagious
- How to spread by prion shedding
- How long prions are viable
- Prions can be ingested or inhaled
- Vertical transmission (mother to fawn prior to birth)
- Incubation period of 2 years, once symptoms appear, time until death is fairly rapid.
- Deer showing no clinical signs can transmit diseases.
- Higher prevalence among male deer and older deer.
- No known vaccine treatments or remedies at present.

- No evidence yet of any widespread genetic resistance to CWD.
- Management of CWD in free ranging herds is difficult to control.

Keep in mind that the deer with CWD looks normal the first 18-20 months. It is important to realize that most people think that a deer doesn't have to look sick to have CWD.

CWD is currently found in 25 states, two providences in Canada, Finland and South Korea.

Richards discussed and shared some hot topics.

- Detection of prions in mineral licks study: researchers have been gathering evidence that there are greater abundancies of CWD prions in the soil by salt and mineral licks where a number of deer may congregate.
- Feeding and baiting and CWD: again where deer congregate, infectious prions are concentrated and there is a higher likelihood of transmission.
- Antler point restrictions: push deer into an older class for higher antler points. Not a great idea as it pushes more bucks into age and sex class where more CWD is prevalent.
- Genetic resistance: no clear cut research or evidence to prove anything definite at this time.

Richards discussed how CWD has grown in Wisconsin since first being detected. In 2002 the first positive was found in Richland County. Since 2005 the CWD prevalence rate has exploded. Past patterns of prevalence show exponential growth rates in populations. Males in high CWD areas have about a 50% prevalence rate, females have about 30%, and fawns are getting CWD at a younger age. Prevalence rate confidence goes up with larger sample sizes. CWD positive deer die at three times the rate of non-diseased animals in the Wisconsin studies.

Our current methods for CWD management do not have a positive outlook. Management recommendations:

- Identify point sources of food and water.
- Work with land owners to mitigate point source and reduce deer density.
- Harvest management.
- Work towards increasing buck harvest.
- Develop a harvesting strategy to maximize removal of infected animals.

Major issues facing CWD in Wisconsin are the inability to manage CWD in the free ranging population. Need more stakeholder support and need to deal with all the misinformation.

One of the major problems in our particular area is the amount of CWD samples collected by each county between 2015-2017. There has been much sampling done in CWD zones but in other areas of the state sampling is hardly done. Unfortunately this leads us to lack of information on these areas where sampling is low. So this leads us to wonder how much we really know about CWD prevalence in our area. For example, Chippewa County has only tested seven deer for CWD within the past three years.

So what do we know? We have a single free ranging positive deer detected in Eau Claire County. The deer is a 2-year old female in the clinical phase of disease. This is most likely a local deer because does typically don't move

	<p>very far from birth. She also most likely contacted it when she was very young.</p> <p>We know that sampling in the vicinity has been very weak. This makes it very challenging to provide any statement or assessment regarding the presence, absence, or intensity of CWD in the vicinity. Deer habitat is very good near where the positive was located.</p> <p>So what's next? We want more information on the disease so we can get more public support. The most logical way is to conduct surveillance. What's the goal regarding surveillance?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many more positives are out there? - Where are we going to do this?(Does stay close to home so we should look close to where the doe is found.) - How many deer and how do we achieve our goal? - Which deer do we test (road kill)? - When do we do surveillance? Many would like to start immediately but is it logistically more effective to do it during hunting season. - When do you quit? Even if you don't find a positive doesn't mean that we are out of the woods. <p>What does 1% prevalence look like?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Township (50 deer per square mile) means we have 18 positives in that township. - County (Eau Claire 18 townships with 50 deer per square mile) 324 deer with CWD. <p>Potential surveillance outcomes to think about for how we deal with this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You don't find any additional positives - You find an apparent cluster of positives - You find a wider distribution - Encouraged to think about what to do with these outcomes in the future. <p>Richards closed his presentation answering questions asked by the advisory team. Discussion ensued over consumption of venison throughout the state of Wisconsin for non-tested deer; geographic rate of spread of CWD; ways of eliminating prions while processing your deer by washing your hands with bleach and water, possible spreading of CWD by eagles and other predators moving carcasses and uptake of CWD from vegetation on contaminated soil.</p>
	None

3. Public appearances/comments

DISCUSSION	<p>Citizens who wished to speak were allowed 3 minutes to state their concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - John Eshinger can't understand why one deer testing positive should close
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	<p>baiting and feeding in 6 counties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tom Hauge former DNR Bureau Director, Sauk County, thanked the advisory group for their service. Life doesn't offer many do overs and CWD in Eau Claire County won't be any easier to deal with than it is at the moment, so put your shoulder into it. - Bob Sisco had a question as to what to look for visually for an infected CWD deer. - Del Zwiefelhofer, farmer in Dunn County, questions how to get land owners to cooperate. He said there is no way the DNR will come on his property to shoot a deer. Said he controls the population of deer on his property and he will test the deer shot on his property during deer hunting season. - Jim Morning is concerned about how do we control CWD from spreading. He indicated deer urine used for scent should be outlawed. So stop selling urine. - Mike Foy talked about incentives for land owners and processors to get things moving. - Roxanne Lotts suggested DNR have proper disposal sites so we can get infective carcasses off the landscape. Being a deer farmer she has tested over 500 animals for CWD and is a urine provider. She said all the urine she has collected is CWD urine certified. - Robert Bernier said we need to open landfills and stop hauling carcasses around. - Tim Lienau, Dunn County Board Supervisor, indicated we need action and information about testing for CWD. He said our past sampling efforts are lacking. County board will help get the word out for testing. - Dan Brown said road kill deer should be tested. - John Hillery asked if there was a plan to bring back registration stations? Not at this time. - Laurie Seale said the more you encourage people to leave carcasses on the landscape the more prions will spread. We need landfills and dumpsters. Said CWD is not an emergency, doesn't agree with all the scare mongering. - Paul Pettis, Chippewa County found interesting that the deer found with CWD in Eau Claire County was a young doe. He has concern because does spend most of their life in half a section of land. Therefore he thinks she must have picked the disease up in the area she came from. - Dan Zeak lives in the infected area, has 240 acres. The only solution he sees is the elimination of deer and population reduction. - Ray Hanson, Chetek says the committee should tell the DNR what they should be doing. Don't let other people influence what you are allowed to do.
ACTION	

4. CWD surveillance: Finalize Recommendations

DISCUSSION	<p>A. Determination of surveillance area. Surveillance needs 310 samples as a goal. Motion by Bob Thoma, second by Bill Perrotti to finalize the preliminary recommendation of the surveillance area using the proposed roads as boundaries. Motion Carried.</p> <p>B. Determination of surveillance permit issuance. Motion by Mark Noll, second by Bob Toma to finalize the preliminary</p>
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	<p>recommendation that surveillance permit issuance be offered only in the small focus area. Motion carried.</p> <p>Discussion about time periods to issue surveillance permits. Motion for August 15th start and March cut off point. No seconds to motion.</p> <p>Motion by Al Marotz, second by Bob Toma for a September 15, 2018 to March 31, 2019 permit issuance period. After much discussion, motion was retracted.</p> <p>Motion by Bill Perrotti, second by Mark Noll for a July 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019 permit issuance period. After intense discussion between council members and interjected unwanted comments from the gallery, the council came to a 3:3 tie vote on the motion with Council Chairman Dave Zielke breaking the tie with a no vote. Motion defeated.</p> <p>Motion by Bob Toma, second by Al Marotz to issue surveillance permits September 1, 2018 to March 1, 2019. Motion carried.</p> <p>C. Determination of surveillance permit focus area. Motion by Al Marotz, second by Bob Toma to finalize and make permanent recommendations to use highway boundaries to determine small focus areas. Motion carried.</p>
ACTION	

5. County specific issues/concerns – CWD Advisory Team

DISCUSSION	<p>Council discussed possibility of getting \$100 from each county for a total of \$600 to do a lottery so we can have an incentive for hunters to sample deer. Other ideas to be discussed at next meeting.</p> <p>Mark Noll, Buffalo County indicated the conservation alliance in Buffalo County has been trying to get rid of baiting and feeding throughout the county for some time. Some people bait for the simple reason they want to see deer because people are baiting around them. He said conservation wardens should just not slap wrists with this baiting issue.</p>
ACTION	

6. Council member matters – CWD Advisory Team

DISCUSSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Request made that once permits are issued, record sex and all information so that it's readily available. - Do we want all samples brought to Eau Claire or will there be other areas to drop them off? Answer: There will be kiosks spread throughout the area. - Carcass disposal- Kris Johansen from the DNR said the team has to work on that issue as well.
ACTION	.

7. Next meeting and dates

DISCUSSION	No decision on next meeting since we don't have all the information on the herd.
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ACTION	

8. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	Motion by Mark Noll, second by Al Brown to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.
SUBMITTED BY	Alternate Chairman, Al Brown
DATE	June 18, 2018